



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Act No. 218. Regulating certain forms of insurance and the countersigning of policies and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Act No. 219. Protecting certain animals and birds and providing for the violation of the Act.

Act No. 220. Prohibiting the sale of liquor to women and the employing of women in places where liquor is sold and providing penalties.

Act No. 221. Amending the law regarding banks and providing certain penalties.

Act No. 222. Regulating the giving of bonds by officers of banks and providing penalties.

Act No. 228. Making it an offense for officers of homestead associations to present false reports and providing penalties.

Act No. 223. Prohibiting combinations in the sale of commodities and providing penalties.

Act No. 234. Providing that the books and records of certain corporations shall be subject to inspection and be evidence before grand juries.

Act No. 249. Making it a crime to steal attachments of locomotives or cars and providing penalties.

Act No. 250. Making the pledge of articles for cars by unauthorized persons an offense and providing penalties.

Act No. 258. Amending the laws regarding the killing of certain birds out of season and providing penalties.

Act No. 270. Making it a misdemeanor to compel employes to pay any part of the premium on liability policies and providing penalties.

Act No. 272. Amending the bird preservation law in certain particulars and providing penalties.

Act No. 273. Making it a misdemeanor to sell junk when unpaid for and providing penalties.

Act No. 137. Creating the office of general manager of the State Penitentiary.

Act No. 46. The general appropriation law contains on page 153 appropriations to the State Penitentiary.

W. O. HART, *New Orleans, La.*

**Leniency In the Administration of the Criminal Law.**—The late Mr. Edmund D. Purcell in his recently published work, "Forty Years at the Criminal Bar," bore testimony to the fact that leniency in the administration of the criminal law, which was in times gone by achieved mainly through the exertions of Sir Samuel Romilly, who sought to reduce the severity of sentences fixed by common law or statute, has in recent times been in large measure secured by the humanity of judges in the exercise of a discretionary power, in cases in which such power is vested in them, in sentences on conviction. Mr. Purcell instances this trend of the judicial mind towards gentler treatment of criminals by directing attention to the fact that, whereas in 1877 no fewer than seventy-five persons received sentences of fifteen years' penal servitude and eighty-six persons sentences of ten years' penal servitude at the Central Criminal Court, in 1912 no one was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude and three persons only to ten years' penal servitude. This tendency to mildness rather than severity in the awarding of punishment for guilt is manifested by an incident at the

London Sessions the other day. Mr. Allan Lawrie had before him three appeals against sentences in which the appellants had pleaded guilty in the court below. Mr. Lawrie said the Bench had come to the decision that they had no jurisdiction to hear appeals in cases in which the appellants had pleaded guilty, but that the court, while dismissing the appeal, would make a representation to the home office that it was highly desirable that provision should be made for appeal against sentence even when the defendant had pleaded guilty. The tendency of the movement in favor of criminal reform at the present time is to place a larger discretion in the judge in the award of punishment and to reduce, if not, indeed, to remove, from the statute-book and from common law the cases in which on conviction for crime the sentence is removed from the discretion of the judge. The Penal Code, which Burke strongly urged the necessity of revising, which he described as "radically defective" and "abominable," whose softening was undertaken in the early years of the nineteenth century by Sir Samuel Romilly and his successors in that great work, was an enormous and undigested mass of capital offenses, which made the criminal law a mere sanguinary chaos. Previous to the Revolution, the number of capital offenses is said not to have exceeded fifty. During the reign of George II. sixty-three new ones were added. In 1779 the number was estimated in Parliament at 154, but by Blackstone, writing in 1765, at 160, and Romilly observed in 1786 that since the appearance of Blackstone's Commentaries it had considerably increased. In Parliament the enactment of new capital offenses was regarded as a mere formal matter. Burke relates that, being stopped one night when leaving the House of Commons and requested by the clerk at the table to stay to make a House, he asked what was the business in question, and was answered, "Oh, sir, it is only a new capital felony." At the present time, exclusive of treason and murder, only three crimes are punishable with death, while the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, the prerogative of the pardon remaining wholly unaffected and the undoubted leaning of the judiciary to mercy in the infliction of sentences, have powerfully contributed to banish from the criminal law of England the barbarities and absurdities by which it was for generations tarnished.—*Law Notes*, Jan., 1917.

**New York Municipal Civil Service Examination for Court Attendant.**

(June 14, 1917).—1 Write a report to the Chief City Magistrate, stating your action in the arrest in the courtroom of a man who was subsequently found guilty of an attempt to throw a bomb in the courtroom. Include in this report what aroused your suspicion in this case, what investigation you made before taking any action and exactly what action you took in this case.

*Sign this report "John Doe, Court Attendant, First District Magistrate's Court." If you sign any other name, title, number or initials you will be disqualified. Handwriting (Wt. 1) will be rated on this report.*

2. (a) Explain clearly the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor. (b) Name three crimes which are always felonies. (c) Name three crimes which are always misdemeanors.

3. (a) How are convicted criminals finger-printed? (b) How is an expert able to determine whether a criminal has been finger-printed before?

4. While serving as a court attendant in a city magistrate's court a man applies to you for a summons, stating that John Doe has his watch and will not